



News Release

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Supply and Services / Justice

Saint John courthouse project will be public-private partnership (07/12/18)

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SAINT JOHN (CNB) - Architectural drawings were unveiled today for a new \$47 million Saint John courthouse which will be built through a public-private partnership.



(Multimedia)

Supply and Services Minister Roly MacIntyre, Justice and Consumer Affairs Minister T. J. Burke, and Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty made the announcement today.

"I am pleased to announce the government has allocated \$2.4 million to advance the design work and develop a request for proposals for construction of the new courthouse through a private developer," MacIntyre said. "By engaging the private sector in this way, we hope to create a new spirit of collaboration. We are building upon our relationship with private industry and enabling the design, construction and development sector to actively participate in our province's plans for achieving self-sufficiency."

In total, the new Saint John courthouse will be about 11,655 square metres (129,500 square feet) in size. It will be modern and energy-efficient, with 13 courtrooms as well as office space for the Judiciary, Court Services, Public Prosecutions, the Barristers Society, Sheriff Services, Public Safety and Policing. Two new courtrooms have been included in the design in order to accommodate the eventual closure of courts in Hampton and Sussex.

"The new Saint John courthouse will allow all court activities to be combined in a safe, secure facility for employees in our justice system as well as the general public," Burke said. "All services will be provided under one roof instead of being spread out between three different buildings, as is the case today."

Supply and Services will issue a request for proposals for the project in the spring of 2008 with completion of the new facility expected in 2010.

"Similar to the Moncton courthouse, we will be asking private developers to come forward and demonstrate their expertise and experience as well as capacity to develop this project for Saint John," MacIntyre said. "They must be able to construct, own, finance and operate the new facility and lease it back to the province."

The new Saint John courthouse will be built on the former YMCA property on Hazen Avenue in the downtown area. The demolition of the existing YMCA building is underway and is expected to be finished early in the New Year.

Meanwhile, the province is continuing its discussions with the City of Saint John for off-site parking for courthouse staff and the public through the construction of a city-owned parking structure to be built near the new courthouse and the new city police headquarters.

Another proposal from the city suggests the development of common spaces between the new courthouse and the police station. Detention facilities at the police station would also be shared with the province and would have a secure underground corridor linked to the courthouse for the escorting of justice clients to court proceedings. These details are also under discussion with the city and would have to be incorporated into a public-private-partnership arrangement.

The city is also considering building its own pedway system connecting both facilities to the off-site parking structure.

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